

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 An image reading apparatus for reading both surfaces of a document has a first reading device and a second reading device disposed at a side opposite to the first reading device to sandwich a reading station for reading the document, thereby simultaneously reading both surfaces of the document transported to the reading station. The reading station includes a first path to guide the document to be read by the first reading device and a second path for guiding the document to be read by the second reading device. A gap in the second path is narrower than a gap in the first path. This structure does not cause document transport problems and attains quality readings of both surfaces of the document while having different optical reading means.